

7
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SOUTH KOREA-NORTH KOREA-BURMA: Diplomatic Break

Seoul will use Burma's severing of ties with North Korea to encourage international condemnation of North Korea and to persuade other countries to follow Burma's lead. The South Korean Government welcomed Burma's decision, which followed the official Burmese investigation report blaming North Korea for the bombing in Rangoon that killed 17 South Korean officials last month.

North Korea, reacting with unusual speed, has deplored Burma's action in a Foreign Ministry statement and reiterated its charge that South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan was responsible for the bombing.

P'yongyang's ties are mostly with Communist and Third World countries, only a small number of which seem likely to take serious diplomatic action against the North. Some countries may be more disposed toward applying informal trade and travel restrictions.

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